



STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, June 3, 2015, from 9:05 am to 12:10 pm
USGS, 934 Broadway, Tacoma WA, 98402

Revised Draft Summary

OF THE MEETING'S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

a list of acronyms is provided at the end of the document

ATTENDEES:

Work Group members and alternates present, and the organizations and caucuses they represent:

Cami Apfelbeck (Bainbridge Island), Local Governments; **Jess Archer** (Ecology), State Agencies; **Abby Barnes** (WDNR), State Agencies; **Jenee Colton** (King Co), Local Governments; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Dana de Leon** (Tacoma), Local Governments; **Leska Fore** (PSP), State Agencies; **Dick Gersib** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Shana Joy** (WSCC), Agriculture; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments and the PSEMP Steering Committee Chair; **Chris Konrad** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Ben Parrish** (Covington), Local Governments; **Andy Rheaume** (Redmond), Local Governments; ; **Dan Smith** (Federal Way), Local Governments; **Theresa Thurlow** (Federal Way), Local Governments.

Others in attendance: **Brad Archbold** (WSDOT), **Angela Gallardo** (Newcastle), **Christine Gebhart** (US Navy), **Katie Graziano** (PSP), **Steve Haubner** (Longview), **Bob Johnston** (US Navy), **Jen McIntyre** (WSU-Puyallup), **Kelly McLain** (USDA), **Ken Srifolung** (Maple Valley).

Work Group staff: **Karen Dinicola** (Ecology), SWG Staff; **Brandi Lubliner** (Ecology), RSMP Coordinator.

WORK GROUP HEARS FIRST FINDINGS OF RSMP-FUNDED EFFECTIVENESS STUDY

Jennifer McIntyre of WSU-Puyallup presented the results of the portion of the ongoing bioretention toxicity reduction study that was completed to assess effects of stormwater that has been treated using the “60/40” compost mix currently required by Ecology’s stormwater management manual. The treatment successfully prevents toxicity to adult coho and embryos. The mix releases some metals but organic carbon levels prevent bioavailability. Jen’s presentation is posted with this meeting summary at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/mtgsummaries.html>. The full study report will be posted at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/rsmp/effective.html> when it is complete, later this summer.

WORK GROUP LEARNS ABOUT NON-AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDE USE

Kelly McLain of the Washington State Dept. of Agriculture shared the findings of a survey driven by concern about copper in pesticides. WSDA conducted a survey to collect a qualitative data set to inform future research. The survey covered small, medium and large stores in three counties; licensed operators; and homeowners. The survey identified many opportunities to change behaviors, improve labeling, and possibly restrict sales of concentrated products that homeowners mix and apply themselves. Kelly’s presentation is posted with this meeting summary at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/mtgsummaries.html>. The full report is posted at <http://agr.wa.gov/FP/Pubs/docs/103-409PSReportfinal2014.pdf>.

WORK GROUP LEARNS ABOUT CHINOOK HABITAT INDICATORS

Leska Fore of the Puget Sound Partnership shared the effort led by Bruce Crawford to align, synthesize, and coordinate the watershed-based recovery plans to create a regional monitoring plan with a common set of indicators. They have articulated priority questions about habitat in freshwater and in the Puget Sound nearshore.

Current efforts provide a lot of the data the salmon recovery groups are asking for, and Bruce and Leska are encouraging them to use the RSMP and NOAA’s aerial-scale status and trends indicators and methods. Leska’s presentation is posted with this meeting summary at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/mtgsummaries.html>. When the report is released, Leska will send it to Karen Dinicola for distribution to work group members.

WORK GROUP UPDATED ON RSMP IMPLEMENTATION AND OVERSIGHT

The Pooled Resources Oversight Committee last met April 20 and will meet again in July. Ben Parrish is the new chair. Work group members confirmed the following changes to the PRO-Committee's membership: Leska Fore is replacing Bruce Wulkan; and Abby Barnes and Tom Putnam are switching alternate and representative positions. The local government caucus will nominate a new alternate over the summer to replace Heather Kibbey, who is retiring.

RSMP quarterly reports are posted at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/admin.html>. The next quarterly report is expected to be completed in late July. These brief reports are the best source of summary information about RSMP expenditures and encumbrances.

Status and trends updates: The Mussels QAPP is near final and will be posted soon. The small streams field crews will do their best to sample 100 sites for watershed health and sediment chemistry this summer; we hope the crews can get out early and that streams won't go dry. The SWG-appointed subcommittee has nearly completed the Streams QAPP addendum and it will be discussed by the PSEMP Freshwater Workgroup soon. Work group members generally agreed with the subcommittee assessment that the current document provides appropriately detailed guidance and flexibility for analyzing, interpreting, and reporting on the findings of the 2015 stream monitoring.

Contracting updates: Agencies with RSMP agreements (and all other state contractors) have been notified that if no state budget is in place then there will be a stoppage of work July 1 until Ecology is granted authority to spend RSMP funds. The PRO-Committee approved Redmond's request to proceed with a contracting process based on the current study design for the paired urban watershed retrofit study. Lakewood's city council discussed subcontracting for the business inspection source control and IDDE incident tracking data compilation at their meeting Monday night. The Bellingham IAA for the bioretention hydrology study is awaiting signature by Ecology. SOWs for two more effectiveness studies (fungi & rain gardens) are being developed; the final two (PCB cycling & catch basin inspections) of ten will be developed this fall.

WORK GROUP TEES UP DISCUSSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NPDES MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PERMITS

The SWG has an opportunity to discuss and recommend possible improvements to the permit structure for implementing the RSMP. Currently the RSMP is implemented via Special Condition S8 Monitoring and Assessment of the municipal stormwater NPDES permits: S8.B is status and trends, S8.C is effectiveness studies, and S8.D is SIDIR. S8.B and S8.C each include "opt-in" and "opt-out" alternatives. The permits require "opt-in" jurisdictions to contribute a population-allocated portion of the budgeted RSMP funding. The decisions about how to allocate expenditures of the RSMP funds remain with the SWG, overseen by the PRO-Committee. This implementation structure seems to be working well.

Ecology's municipal stormwater permit writers and permit managers are asking the stakeholders to collectively submit any recommendations for changes to the current S8.B, S8.C, and S8.D permit language prior to April 30, 2016, particularly if there are substantive language changes being recommended.

One of the SWG's October 2010 recommendations for the permit monitoring requirements was that, with the exception of Phase I jurisdictions being given the option to conduct their own effectiveness studies, all permittees be required to participate in the RSMP. Having unanimously recommended that there not be "opt-out" provisions; the SWG has consistently chosen not to make recommendations about those permit sections.

The SWG's subgroups and caucuses should meet over the summer and bring ideas to the next work group meeting in September. We will discuss recommendations at our November and January meetings and finalize them in March 2016.

AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING UNDERWAY

Shana Joy of the Washington State Conservation Commission updated the work group on the recently reconvened subgroup's efforts to compile the previously approved sets of recommended priorities for monitoring runoff from agricultural lands into an implementation plan including roles, responsibilities, and funding sources. The work group will hear a more detailed update in September and the subgroup should be ready to present the final set of implementation recommendations in November. Work group members are encouraged to contact Shana at sjoy461@ecy.wa.gov if interested in participating in or receiving emails related to the SWG Agricultural Runoff Subgroup.

TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT SWG REPORTER

The last “SWG Reporter” went out in April 2015. These brief updates on the RSMP and other SWG efforts are posted at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/reporter.html>. The next issue will go out after the state budget is adopted (later this month or in July). Topics to be included are:

- SWG hears findings of first RSMP effectiveness study
- New status and trends website available
 - Mussel monitoring site confirmation is underway
 - Stream sediment monitoring to be conducted at up to 100 sites this summer; RSMP will need information from local governments to support data analysis and interpretation
- SIDIR data compilation and evaluation underway soon
- Next RSMP quarterly report is due out in late July
- Join our effort

WORK GROUP MEMBERS VOLUNTEER TO REVIEW PSP “LINKAGES” REPORT ON STORMWATER

Leska introduced Katie Graziano who is developing sections of the upcoming State of the Sound report to connect the near term actions detailed in the 2014 Action Agenda to outcomes for the three strategic initiatives: shellfish, habitat, and stormwater. The vital sign indicators for the first two initiatives are clearly linked, but stormwater is connected to many vital signs – and those vital signs are also affected by other pressures. Katie’s report is going to focus on toxics in nearshore sediment. Work group members Jay Davis, Dana de Leon, Ben Parrish, Theresa Thurlow, and Abby Barnes volunteered to review the draft report section when it is ready, sometime in the coming month.

UPDATES FROM PSEMP AND BEST WISHES TO HEATHER KIBBEY

The PSEMP Steering Committee continues to discuss how to respond to the Ruckelshaus report auditing the initial efforts of PSEMP, as well as the new USEPA funding model. The Steering Committee has decided to focus on a coordination role. PSP is eliminating 9-10 staff in the next biennium and this will likely affect PSEMP. Dave Peeler, who has been working on funding strategies, is among those leaving at the end of this month. The agency request to fill priority monitoring gaps is still alive in the state budget process. The Steering Committee is considering commissioning a new topical work group focused on disease.

Work group members thanked Heather Kibbey for her many years of dedicated service and participation! Heather will stay on the Steering Committee through September to help ease the transition to a new chair. We will need a new chair for the SWG Effectiveness Subgroup.

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS

At all of our meetings, we will:

- Hear feedback from the PRO-Committee on RSMP implementation,
- Hear from our subgroups about the status of implementing our current work plan,
- Hear from the PSEMP Steering Committee and other PSEMP workgroups, and
- Determine messages and timing for the next SWG Reporter issue

At our next meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the USGS Office in Tacoma, we will also:

- Hear about the study design for Redmond’s RSMP-funded paired urban watershed retrofit study
- Hear preliminary findings from our stream monitoring and see a map of final sites for mussel monitoring
- Discuss subgroups’ and caucuses’ ideas for recommendations about the monitoring and assessment requirements in the municipal stormwater permits
- Provide feedback on an initial draft implementation plan for agricultural runoff monitoring

The final meeting of 2015 is scheduled on November 18.

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS MEETING SUMMARY:

IDDE – Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
PRO-Committee – Pooled Resources Oversight Committee
PSEMP – Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program
PSP – Puget Sound Partnership
QAPP – Quality Assurance Project Plan
RSMP – Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program
SIDIR – Source Identification Information Repository
SOW – Scope of Work
SWG – Stormwater Work Group
USEPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS – U.S. Geological Survey
WDNR – Washington Dept. of Natural Resources
WSCC – Washington State Conservation Commission
WSDA – Washington Dept. of Agriculture
WSDOT – Washington Dept. of Transportation
WSU – Washington State University